

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01751 281849Z

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ACTION SIL-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, SP

SUBJECT: JOINT ICFTU-WCL MEETING WITH SPANISH TRADE UNIONISTS
SET FOR MARCH 8-9 IN PARIS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1117

1. WCL GENERAL SECRETARY BRUCH AND ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY VANDERVECKEN WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO INTERNATIONALS AT A MEETING WITH SPANISH TRADE UNION LEADERS IN PARIS ON MARCH 8-9. ORGANIZERS OF THE JOINT ICFTU-WCL VENTURE ANTICIPATE THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL "DEMOCRATIC" TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS IN SPAIN, INCLUDING SOME BASQUE UNIONS, WILL PARTICIPATE.

2. WCL LEADERS ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE DECISION OF THE SOCIALIST UGT TO ATTEND THE MEETING. UNTIL
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 01751 281849Z

NOW, ACCORDING TO BRUCK, THE UGT HAS RESISTED ALL

EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A NON-COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION FRONT AND HAS REFUSED TO MEET WITH WCL AFFILIATED UNIONS IN SPAIN.

3. LEADERS OF BOTH INTERNATIONALS HAVE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARIS MEETING. THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT FAILURE TO UNIFY DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN SPAIN WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PORTUGUESE-LIKE SITUATION IN WHICH THE COMMUNISTS WILL CONTROL THE LABOR SECTOR. THEY POINT OUT THAT THE SITUATIONS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOT EXACTLY ANALOGOUS BECAUSE BOTH INTERNATIONALS HAVE BEEN OPERATING CLANDESTINELY IN SPAIN FOR MANY YEARS WHILE THEY WERE FORCED TO START FROM SCRATCH IN PORTUGAL. NEVERTHELESS, THEY PREDICT A LONG UPHILL STRUGGLE IN SPAIN EVEN IF A UNITED DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION FRONT IS ESTABLISHED. MYERSON

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